



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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January 19, 2016

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS
AVAILABLE TO THE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF A GRANT TO
THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
FOR THE ACQUISITION OF OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES PROJECT
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate Specified Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the acquisition of open space and wildlife habitat land throughout the Fifth Supervisorial District.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Acquisition of Open Space Properties Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the project.
2. Allocate Specified Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Acquisition of Open Space Properties Project.
3. Authorize the Acting Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Acting Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant in an

amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority when applicable conditions have been met; and to administer the grant as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate Specified Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for the Acquisition of Open Space Properties Project (Project).

The Project involves acquisition of tax-defaulted and privately held open space land throughout the Fifth Supervisorial District. The total project cost is estimated at \$1,000,000 and will be fully funded by the recommended Specified Excess Funds.

It is recommended that the Acting Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Acting Director), in his capacity as Acting Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award a grant to MRCA when applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project, if applicable. It is also recommended that the Acting Director be authorized to administer the grant pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by the Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by enhancing health-promoting activities in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000, is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. MRCA meets this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended Excess Fund grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District for Specified Projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Acting Director

would be authorized to award grants to the various grantees when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. MRCA is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from the CEQA. The Project, which consists of acquisition of tax-defaulted and privately held open space land throughout Fifth Supervisorial District, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Section 15313 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 13 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the Project consists of acquisition of land for wildlife conservation purposes.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Grant Project Agreements will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Acting Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grants have been met. The Project Agreements will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by RPOSD. The recommended Project will promote healthy activities in public spaces in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

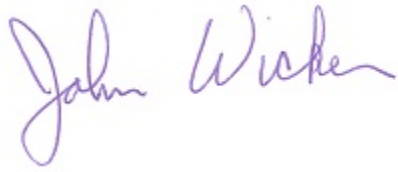
Please instruct the Acting Executive Officer - Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Programs Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Directors

1/19/2016

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "John Wicker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JOHN WICKER

Acting Director

JW:JB:WRO:tb

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors